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ABSTRACT

This booklet (one of a series of 10 booklets in a reading project to benefit Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky) contains five stories especially written for kindergarten children by educators. The stories are about: the importance of using a seatbelt; a child's first experience of a hospital; a visit to an emergency room; a 5-year-old's feelings about his new brother; and a child who mistakes a mothball for a marshmallow. Students read the stories in the booklet and answer comprehension questions, and pledges are made by parents and friends for each question answered. The stories or story topics, which may be used in the classroom for instructional purposes, are intended to integrate the language arts, social studies, health, and creative arts. (MG)

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KOSAIR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL'S

READATHON

KIDS HELPING KIDS

GRADE K

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What is it?

It is an educational project designed to benefit KOSAIR Children's Hospital. Students at each grade level (K-8) read ten stories and answer comprehension questions. Pledges are made by parents and friends for each question answered.

What are these stories about?

The stories are about: diseases; accidents; accident prevention; children's reactions to hospital stays; dealing with personal differences; etc. For older children, the topics of alcohol and drug abuse are also included. Many of these stories highlight personal triumphs.

Who reads these stories?

Any child whose teacher and parent(s) support the project.

Can children receive help with reading and answering questions?

Yes. Parents are encouraged to help their child (regardless of reading ability) read and answer the questions.

How much instructional time will this take?

Very little. Teachers simply take a child's word for his participation and record the money returned. Upon completion of the program, the teacher completes a brief checklist for any prizes earned.

BENEFITS

Reading/Writing Experience

These stories are interesting and educationally sound at each grade level. The questions following each selection are based on a new questioning strategy. Children will be actively engaged in the reading/writing process.

Philanthropy

Children learn to be helping members of society as they raise money for less fortunate children.

Parental Involvement/Interaction

Children will have the opportunity to discuss with parents ideas and concerns that may never have been brought out without the questions following these stories.

Integration of Subjects

Teachers may use stories or story topics in the classroom for instructional purposes. Teachers will be provided with motivational and educational strategies to accompany these stories. These ideas help integrate the language arts, social studies, health, and creative arts. Many are based on whole language ideas, and higher level thinking skills are encouraged.

Intrinsic and Extrinsic Rewards

All children will receive an achievement certificate signifying their participation in the program. Children who collect $10 or more in pledges will receive prizes for their accomplishments. Best of all, children will gain a sense of pride as they help other children.

For more information, you may write of call: Susan Ramp Ridout, Ph.D.
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Kosair Children's Hospital's

READATHON

KIDS HELPING KIDS

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STORIES WRITTEN BY EDUCATORS FROM INDIANA AND KENTUCKY

A LETTER TO THE PARENT
ABOUT THIS BOOK AND YOUR CHILD

This booklet contains stories especially written for children of your child's age. They have all been written by educators. Many of them tell of the fears and feelings these educators had when they were children. Some of them are written through the eyes of a parent.

The stories deal with topics which are sometimes difficult for us to think or talk about. Yet, these very topics are the ones which our children most desperately need to have an adult share with them. Some of the stories may make you and your child cry or feel sad. Others will lift your spirits in memorable ways. Hopefully, one or two will cause you to say, "I had those same feelings."

It is our sincere hope you will use these stories as starters for a special time of sharing with your child.

No one knows your child better than you do. Therefore, we encourage you to preview the stories before your child reads them or you read them to your child. Some stories may be best read with your child. It is, of course, your right and responsibility to exclude any story which you may feel is beyond your child's present level of maturity.

At the end of each story are questions to be answered. At your discretion, your child may either write or discuss the answers with a responsible adult. Questions which are well suited for discussion are marked with asterisks (*). Questions answered in either form may be counted toward your child's fund raising efforts for the children of Kosair.

These booklets are in their first printing. If you have suggestions or comments which would improve their effectiveness in helping future readers, please call or write to:

Susan J. Gibbs
Director of Annual Giving and Special Events
Children's Hospital Foundation
601 S. Floyd Street
Louisville, KY 40202
502-562-8063

Snap That Seatbelt!

Jean Geswein
North Harrison Elementary

Hi! My name is Jessie. I am five years old and in kindergarten. I love school! Since I am in afternoon kindergarten, I get to eat lunch with Mom. Mom is a super cook, so I am happy about this. After lunch, I am always eager to see my teacher Miss Burns. I like to draw pictures for her.

One day Mom and I were late going to school. We didn't even have time to snap our seatbelts! I was sitting in the front seat counting my pictures for Miss Burns. We were in front of school when the accident happened. Crash! Bang! Mom and I both hit the car windowshield. I heard glass tinkling. I felt a thump on my forehead and something cool on my face. I looked at Mom. She looked scared and had blood on her face. She picked me up and carried me into my school. We met the counselor. She led Mom and me to the sick room. The school nurse was there. She cleaned our wounds. The nurse suggested that we go to the hospital.

At the hospital, I needed eight stitches, but my mom only needed three. I didn't get to go to school for two days. I had a giant headache.

Mom and I were both lucky that day! We were not hurt badly, but if we had used our seatbelts, we might not have been hurt at all. Now everytime Mom and I get into a car, we snap our seatbelts. Then we wink at each other!

Questions

*1. What is meant by eager?

*2. What should Jessie have done as soon as she got into the car?

*3. What do you know about Jessie?

*4. Where did Mom and Jessie go for help?

*5. Why were Jessie and Mom "both lucky"?

*6. Why did Mom and Jessie get hurt?

*7. What might have happened if they had used their seat belts?

*8. If they had been early for school, what might <u>not</u> have happened?

*9. What will probably happen whenever Jessie gets into a car now?

*10. What does this story remind you to do?

* Recommended for discussion

My Sister's Operation

Sue Anderson
Maple Elementary

My name is Emily. I have a little sister named Rachael. She is two years old. She was sick a lot of the time. One of her kidneys inside her body didn't work right. The doctor said an operation would make her feel better.

My mom told me all about it. My sister would go to the hospital. My mom would stay with her. I would get to visit her after her operation.

I was sad when they went to the hospital. I wouldn't see them for two days. My dad said that the nurses and doctors would help my sister and mom.

They went to the hospital early in the morning. I thought about them all day. My dad called my babysitters. He told me that my sister was okay after the operation.

The next day I got to go to the hospital. I was happy to see my sister. She was in a pretty room. She was in a big bed with sides on it. My mom had a place to sleep in the room. She wanted to be close to my sister.

The nurses were nice. The hospital was a nice place, too. If I ever get sick, I know that a hospital will make me feel better.

Questions

*1. Have you ever been to a hospital?

*2. How did Emily feel about her sister going to the hospital?

*3. How would you feel if your little sister went to the hospital?

*4. What made Emily feel better?

*5. How old was Rachel when she had her operation?

*6. Name two things that Emily liked at the hospital.

*7. What caused Emily to be sad?

*8. Who told Emily about the operation?

*9. Did Rachael feel better after the operation?

*10. Who helped Rachael when she was in the hospital?

* Recommended for discussion

Silly Sally Visits the Emergency Room

Deneen Gilliam
Woodlawn Elementary

Boom! That is what Silly Sally heard when her chair hit the floor. She had hit her head. It hurt badly! Silly Sally had been leaning back in her chair. Miss Tally told her not to do this because she might get hurt, but Silly Sally did not listen to her teacher. The school nurse put an ice pack on Silly Sally's head.

The principal, Mr. Pally, took Silly Sally to the emergency room. Mr. Pally told Silly Sally that the emergency room was a busy place. People can get sick quickly and need to see a doctor right then. This is how an emergency room is used. This special place is open all day and all night. Silly Sally and Mr. Pally walked into the emergency room just as a very sick old man was coming in on a bed with wheels. Mr. Pally told Silly Sally that the bed was the kind used in an ambulance.

At last it was Silly Sally's turn to see the doctor. His name was Dr. Pilly. Dr. Pilly told Silly Sally she needed stitches. Silly Sally did not know about stitches. This made her very scared. Dr. Pilly told her that stitches were made with thread. Stitches would close her cut. Silly Sally was afraid stitches would hurt. Dr. Pilly told Silly Sally

that the nurse would put special medicine on her cut. It would make that part of her head numb. It would feel like her hand does when it falls asleep. When a part of the body is numb, you cannot feel it when it is touched. Silly Sally did not feel a thing when the doctor put the stitches in her head. It was over in ten minutes.

Silly Sally came out of the emergency room wearing a smile and a small bandage. On the way back to school, Mr. Pally asked Silly Sally if she learned anything today. Silly Sally told Mr. Pally she learned a lot about the emergency room. But most of all, she learned not to lean back in her chair.

Questions

*1. Why did Silly Sally need to go to the emergency room?

*2. If you would have to go to the emergency room, what would you expect?

*3. What is meant by numb?

*4. What made Silly Sally fall?

*5. What does an ambulance bed look like? Why is it made like that?

*6. What would you do if someone in your classroom was leaning back in a chair?

*7. How would you feel if you needed stitches? Why?

*8. What two things did Silly Sally learn that day?

*9. What did numbing Sally's head feel like?

*10. What would you do if someone fell in your classroom, and the teacher wasn't there?

* Recommended for discussion

Big Brother

Jill Railsback
Seymour High School

Hi! My name is Trent. I'm five years old. I have a new brother named Trevor. Mommy brought him home from the hospital last week. I was really glad to have my mommy back home. She was gone a long time. I stayed at Grandma's house. That way Daddy could stay late at the hospital with Mommy every night until we got Trevor.

At first I didn't like Trevor very well. I thought Mommy and Daddy liked him better. Then Aunt Jill came to stay. That was fun. She acted like she liked me better.

When Aunt Jill got here, we played in my sandbox. We kicked my football around. We laughed when Bridget, my dog, sat on top of the picnic table. We played outside until Mommy yelled out the door that Trevor was awake. Aunt Jill said we had to go in. I got mad, but I went in with her anyway.

Aunt Jill had to change Trevor's diaper. It was dirty. She didn't know where the new diapers and powder were, so I got them for her. Then I was glad I had gone inside with Aunt Jill.

Next, Aunt Jill had to give Trevor his bottle. I showed her where the bottles were and helped her warm one for Trevor. Then Aunt Jill asked me if I would hold Trevor and give him his bottle!

I thought it was pretty important to be a big brother then. Mommy took some pictures of me holding Trevor. Trevor cried. I guess he didn't know you have to smile for a picture.

Mommy, Daddy, and Aunt Jill said I was a big boy to help with Trevor. I still don't think they like me better. That's all right because Trevor is my little brother.

Questions

*1. How old is Trent?

*2. In what way are you like Trent?

*3. What kind of problem does Trent have?

*4. Why wasn't Trent sure if he liked Trevor at first?

*5. Why do you think Trent "got mad" when he had to go inside?

*6. Why do you think Trent changed his mind and said he was glad he went inside?

*7. What might Trent's life be like if he hadn't started to like being a big brother?

*8. How would you feel if you had a new baby brother?

*9. How would you treat a new baby in the family?

*10. How do you think children should act toward a new baby in the family?

* Recommended for discussion

An Afternoon Adventure

Diane Wright

Do you sometimes like to pretend you are someone else? Do you like to dress up in old clothes and play house? That is what two little sisters were planning to do one day many years ago.

One rainy day, Diane and Kathy wanted to play dress up.

"May we please play in the attic, Mom?" asked Diane.

"Is it all right if we dress up in old clothes?" asked Kathy.

"Sure. Go have fun!" said Mom.

The girls had a wonderful time exploring the attic. When they dressed in Mom's old clothes, they became princesses. When they wore Dad's clothes they were explorers. They lived in a castle high on a mountain. They explored deepest, darkest Africa.

Their afternoon was filled with wonderful adventures until Diane found something. It was small, white, and round. There were many of the white balls lying around in the

boxes. Diane was excited by her discovery! She thought she had found marshmallows. Mom always put marshmallows in her hot chocolate. They had tasted s-o-o-o good when she roasted them at a campfire. Diane popped one of the small balls into her mouth. Kathy couldn't stop her in time. Before long Diane realized that the ball was not a marshmallow! It was awful!

Kathy ran downstairs calling, "Mom! Dad! Diane just ate something white."

Mom and Dad came upstairs. "Show me," they both said.

Kathy showed Mom and Dad. They discovered that Diane had swallowed a mothball. Mothballs are something that is put in boxes to keep moths away.

Mom called the doctor right away. The doctor said, "Bring Diane to the hospital right away."

Diane wasn't feeling too well. She was scared that she had done something very bad. Daddy held her tightly as they drove to the hospital.

The doctor met all of them at the hospital. He said that Diane's stomach must be emptied. Diane fought the doctor and nurses as they tried to put a tube down her throat. They needed to do this so they could pump the mothball out.

Finally it was over. Diane was very tired. The doctor told Mom and Daddy that the mothball was gone. Diane would be fine. She was a lucky girl.

Questions

*1. Why was it bad that Diane ate the mothball?

*2. What would have happened if Diane hadn't gone to the hospital?

*3. What kind of girl do you think Diane was?

*4. What is a mothball?

*5. Why was Diane a lucky girl?

*6. How are Diane and Kathy like you?

*7. What should Mom and Dad do with the rest of the mothballs that are still in the attic?

*8. Why did Diane eat the mothball?

*9. Why did Kathy run downstairs to get Mom and Daddy?

*10. Why did Diane feel that she had done something bad?

*Recommended for discussion